

Date: 23-01-25

Maham-141-westridge.  
Sociology Mock

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Compare & Contrast . . . . . each theory.

1. INTRODUCTION:

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The functionalist, conflict and symbolic interactionist perspectives are three foundational frameworks in sociology, each offering distinctive ways to analyze society. Functionalism views society as a system of connected and intertwined parts, whereas conflict refers to the inequalities within the society. The symbolic interactionist perspective focuses on the interpretation through gestures and symbols in everyday interaction.

2. FUNCTIONALIST PERSPECTIVE:

(i) KEY FEATURES:

Functionalism views society as a cohesive system where all parts function together to maintain stability and order. Social institutions like family, education, and government are seen as structures that serve vital roles for societal survival.

(ii) CORE IDEAS:

a) Manifest functions:

The explicit and intended outcomes of social structures like schools, educate students.

b) Latent Functions:

Unintended but beneficial consequences



### a) Dysfunctions:

Elements that disrupts social harmony like. unemployment destabilize the economy. (2)

### (iii) THEORISTS:

#### a) EMILE DURKHEIM:

He emphasized on social integration and collective consciousness.

#### b) Talcott Parson:

He highlighted the need for stability and adaptation.

#### c) Robert. K. Merton:

He introduced the concept of manifest and latent functions.

### (iv) EXAMPLES FROM REAL LIFE:

#### a) Health-Care System:

##### 1) Manifest Functions:

Provides medical care to maintain social health.

##### 2) Latent Function:

Creates employment opportunities in the medical field.

##### 3) Dysfunction:

Inequality in health care access leading to disparities in health outcomes.

Example	Manifest Function	Latent Function	Dysfunction
	individual for job & social roles	health class difference.	inequality in interactions.



### 3. CONFLICT PERSPECTIVE:

#### (i) KEY FEATURES:

Conflict theory views society as a battle ground for power, resources and inequality. It focuses on how dominant groups exploit and oppress others to maintain their privileged positions.

#### (ii) CORE IDEAS:

##### a) Class Divide:

Karl Marx argued that society is divided into the bourgeoisie (owners) and proletariat (workers), where the former exploits the latter.

##### b) Inequality in Social Institutions:

Institutions like education and the legal system often are rigged in the favour of elite reinforcing the status quo and perpetuate inequality.

##### c) Social Change:

Change arises from conflict and resistance, often through revolution or reform movements.

#### (iii) THEORISTS:

##### a) Karl Marx:

He analyzed the system of economy that is capitalism and observed the class conflict in societies.



#### (iv) EXAMPLE FROM REAL LIFE:

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The conflict perspective can be applied to analyze gender inequality particularly in work places. The inequality arises from power imbalance between men and women, with dominant groups using societal structures to maintain their advantages.

#### 4 SYMBOLIC-INTERACTIONIST PERSPECTIVE:

##### (i) KEY FEATURES:

Symbolic interactionism focuses on the micro-level of analysis, examining how individuals create and interpret meanings through everyday interactions. It emphasizes subjective experiences and the role of symbols in communication.

##### (ii) CORE IDEAS:

##### a) Construct of meanings:

People assign meanings to objects, events and relationships based on their interactions.

##### b) Role-taking:

Individual understands other by putting themselves in their shoes.

##### c) The Social Self:

G. H. Mead's concept of the "self" looking develops through interaction and reflection on others' opinion and responses.



(iii) THEORISTS:a) George Herbert Meads:

He focused on the role of communication in shaping one's self and their personality.

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(iv) EXAMPLE FROM REAL LIFE:a) Use of Emojis:

Emoji symbolizes emotions and meaning that are used in online conversations nowadays.

	Feature	Functionalist Persp.	Conflict Persp.	Symbolic-Interaction Persp.
1-	Level of Analysis	Macro	Macro	Micro.
2.	Key-focus	Stability, order Cohesion	Inequality, Power struggles Social Change	Interaction, interpretation. Symbols.
3.	View on Society	Interdependent and harmonious	Divide by conflict & Class difference	Constructed through daily interactions.
4.	Social Change	Gradual & evolutionary	Abrupt and revolutionary	Emergent through redefined meanings
5.	Role of individual	Functional role in larger systems.	Actors in struggle for resources and power	Active participants in creating social realities.
	Example	Education trains individual for job & social roles	Education perpetuates class difference.	Education involves teacher-student interactions.



## 5. CONTRAST OF THESE THREE

PERSPECTIVE: : zhasM Jred 1241 spras 2 10

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Functionalism views institutions as beneficial for societal stability, while conflict theory critiques them as perpetrators of inequality.

The symbolic interactionism differs from the macro perspective of functionalism and conflict theory by focusing on individual interactions rather than large scale structures.

By integrating these perspective sociologists can better understand both the broader patterns and nuanced interactions that shapes the human behaviour.

## 6. CONCLUSION:

While the functionalist perspective emphasizes the cohesion and stability of the society, the conflict perspective view it by highlighting inherent inequalities and struggle for power. The third perspective that is, symbolic interactionism delves into the micro-level, focusing on how individuals shape and are shaped by their daily interactions. Together, these perspectives provides a comprehensive understanding of society, from large-scale structures to intimate interactions.



Q2. Discuss the role of Karl Marx - - - ?

## 1. INTRODUCTION:

①

Karl Marx and Max Weber are foundational figures, and their theories on social stratification provide distinct frameworks for understanding class, status and power. While both focuses on inequalities in society, their approaches differ significantly in scope, emphasis and methodology.

## 2. Karl Marx Perspective on Social Stratification:

Marx's theory centers on class conflict as the driving force of social stratification. His analysis is rooted in historical materialism, focusing on economic structures and the relationship between the bourgeoisie (owners) and the Proletariat (workers).

### (i) KEY ELEMENTS OF THEORY:

#### a) Class as Economic Relationship:

For Karl Marx social stratification is based on one's position in economic structure. Class division are determined by control (or lack thereof) over the means of production.



## b) Exploitation & Alienation

Marx emphasized how the capitalist system exploits workers, extracting surplus value from their labor. This leads to alienation, where workers are disconnected from their work, products and humanity.

## c) Class Conflict:

The inherent contradictions between the interests of the bourgeoisie and proletariat lead to class struggle, which Marx believed would culminate in a proletarian revolution and the establishment of a classless society.

## d) Focus on Economic Determinism:

Marx argued that the economy is the base upon which other societal institutions (politics, culture, religion) are built, perpetuating class inequality.

## 3. Max Weber's Perspective on Social Stratification:

Weber expanded on Marx's idea, introducing a more nuanced and multidimensional framework. He argued that stratification cannot be reduced solely to economic factors.



## (i) KEY FEATURES OF THEORY:

### a) Class, Status and Party:

#### 1) Class:

It is defined as a group of individuals sharing a common economic situation, similar to Marx's concept but broader. Class is linked to one's market position, which include skills, qualifications and resources. 9

#### 2) Status:

It refers to social honour or prestige, often linked to the life style, education or cultural values independent of economic wealth.

#### 3) Party:

Party relates to organized forming power group such as political parties and unions, that influences social action.

### b) Multidimensions of Power:

Weber emphasized that power extends beyond economic domination. It can stem from authority that can be legal, traditional or charismatic, status hierarchies, and political influence.

### c) Cultural & Social factors:

Unlike Marx, Weber acknowledged the role of culture, ideology, and religion in incorporating the social stratification. His analysis of the 'Protestant Ethic' demonstrated how the religious beliefs shaped economic behaviour.



social stratification.

#### d) No Inevitable Revolution:

(10)

Weber rejected Marx's deterministic view of history and class conflict, suggesting that social change is unpredictable and influenced by a variety of factors.

#### 4. COMPARISON: CLASS, STATUS & PARTY:

Aspect	Karl Marx	Max Weber
1. Class	Based on ownership of the means of Production (economic determinism).	Based on market position and economic opportunities.
2. Status	Over looked in favor of economic factors	A key dimension, involving prestige and life style.
3. Power	Derived from economic control	Multidimensional: Political, economical and social.
4. Conflict	Central to social change class conflict drives history	Conflict is not always class-based.
5. View of Society	Simplified in two major classes: Bourgeoisie, Proletariat.	multiple layer stratification.
6. View of Stratification.	Binary and antagonistic.	complex and multidimensional. overlapping layers



## KEY DIFFERENCES:

### Karl Marx

1. Economic Determinism
2. Binary Structure
3. Inevitable Revolution through systemic contradictions

### Max Weber

1. Multidimensionality
2. Layered Structure
3. Social change as contingent on diverse and unpredictable factors.

## 5. CONCLUSION:

The theory of Karl Marx provides a revolutionary framework focusing on economic inequalities as root of social stratification, while Max Weber offers a broader, more nuanced approach that perpetuates economic, social and political dimensions. Together they highlight the multifaceted nature of class, status and power in shaping human societies.

(11)



Q3 Explain the concept of deviance.....

## 1. CONCEPT OF DEVIANCE:

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Deviance refers to:

“The behaviours, beliefs, or conditions that violate societal norms or expectations.”

It encompasses a wide range of actions, from minor infractions like dress code violations to serious crimes such as theft or murder. The concept is inherently relative; what is considered deviant in one culture or context may be acceptable in another. Sociologists study deviance to understand how societies define acceptable behaviour and consequence of violating these norms.

## 2. EMILE DURKHEIM'S THEORY OF DEVIANCE:

### (i) BIOGRAPHY:

A French sociologist born in 1858.

Emile Durkheim was a person who systematically applied scientific methods to sociology as a discipline.

Durkheim stressed the importance of studying social facts or patterns of behaviour. His major works include:

“The Rules of Sociological Method.” and “Suicide”. His explanation and analysis of suicidal phenomena gained him fame as



foundational figure in sociology.

## (ii) THEORY OF DEVIANCE:

Durkheim posited that deviance is a normal and necessary part of social life. He argued that it serves several important functions in shaping a society.

### a) Clarification of Norms:

Deviance helps clarify societal norms by highlighting what is considered acceptable behavior. When individuals engage in deviant acts, it prompts society to reaffirm its values and boundaries.

### b) Social Cohesion:

By reacting to deviance, communities can strengthen their bonds. Collective responses to deviant behavior—whether through punishment or rehabilitation—can reinforce group solidarity as members unite against perceived threats to their shared values.

### c) Social Change:

Deviance can also be a catalyst for social change. Existing norms, it can lead to shifts in societal values and practices.



#### d) Functionalism:

Durkheim viewed society as complex system various parts work together to maintain stability. This concept is known as functionalism. He believed that even negative aspects like crime could be contributed as positive social order for adaptation and promoting change.

14

#### e) Concept of 'Anomie':

Durkheim introduced the concept of 'anomie' that describes a state of normlessness that occurs during periods of rapid social change or upheaval when individuals feel disconnected from the collective conscience. Anomie can lead to increased rate of deviance and social instability, suggesting that while some level of deviance is necessary for social health, excessive deviance can threaten the stability.

#### ROLE OF DEVIANCE IN MAINTAINING SOCIETAL STABILITY:

Durkheim's theory emphasizes that while deviance may disrupt social order temporarily, it ultimately plays a crucial role in maintaining social stability.



### (i) Reinforcing Social Norms:

Through punishment and condemnation of deviant acts, societies reinforce their norms and values.

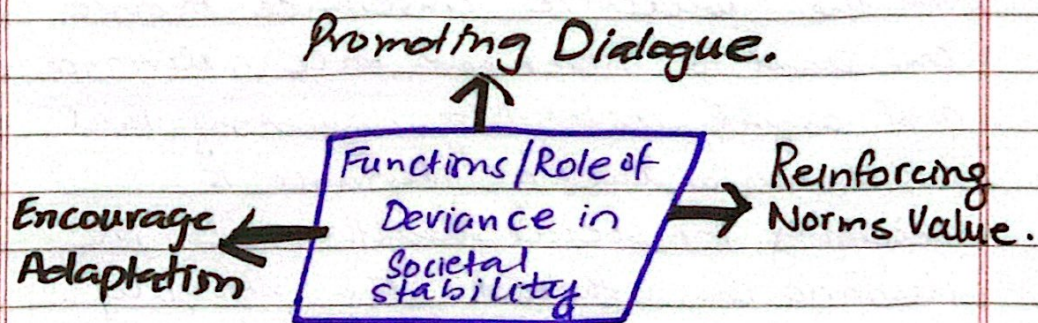
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### (ii) Encouraging adaptation:

Societies must adapt to new forms of behaviour over time; thus, examining deviance allows for necessary adjustments within cultural frameworks.

### (iii) Promoting Dialogue:

Discussions surrounding deviant behaviours foster dialogue about morality and ethics within society, leading to greater awareness and understanding among its members.



### CONCLUSION:

Emile Durkheim perspective on deviance highlight its dual nature as both potential threat as well as essential component for societal cohesion and evolution. His insights remain relevant today as societies continue grappling with issues surrounding conformity, acceptance and change.



Q6.

## SOCIAL CONTROL AND ITS TYPES:

### 1. SOCIAL CONTROL:

(16)

Social control refers to:

"The mechanisms, strategies and institutions society uses to regulate individual behaviour and maintain conformity to establish norms, values and rules."

It is essential for social order, cohesion and the prevention of deviant behaviour.

### 2. TYPES OF SOCIAL CONTROL:

Generally, social control is divided into two types that are; formal and informal social control.

#### (i) FORMAL SOCIAL CONTROL:

This type of social control is exercised through establishment of laws, regulations and institutions. It involves the use of explicit rules and mechanisms to enforce conformity.

• Institutions: Government, judiciary, police and military.

• Examples:

- 1) Laws prohibiting theft or murder and corruption.
- 2) Penalties of breaking traffic rules
- 3) Imprisonment of crimes as a punishment.



- Characteristics:
  - Organized and codified.
  - Applied uniformly across members of society.
  - Backed by authority or force.

(17)

## (ii) INFORMAL SOCIAL CONTROL:

Informal social control is exercised through unwritten norms, customs, traditions and cultural practices. It operates on a personal and community level.

- Agents: Family, friends, peer groups, religious institutions and community leaders.

### • Examples:

- 1) Parental guidance in teaching values.
- 2) Social disapproval of inappropriate behaviour.
- 3) Peer Pressure to conform to group norms.

### • Characteristics:

- Subtle and non-coercive.
- Varies between cultures and communities.
- Relies on social relationships and interactions.



## Other types of Social Control:

Positive	Negative	Direct	Indirect.
Encourages desired behaviours through rewards, praise or incentives.	Discourages undesirable behaviour through punishments, criticism or sanctions.	Imposed through direct interaction, such as supervision by a parent or employers.	Operates through societal values, beliefs and moral principles internalized by individuals.

## IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL CONTROL:

- Maintains Social Order:  
Prevents chaos and ensure stability.
- Promotes Social Cohesion:  
Encourages conformity to shared values.
- Regulate deviant Behaviour:  
Discourages actions that violates norms.
- Emsures a functional Society:  
Facilitates cooperation and coordination.



## 5) Ethnocentrism & Xenocentrism:

### 1. Ethnocentrism

Ethnocentrism refers to

“the belief that one's culture, norms and values, or practices are superior to those of other cultures.”

Ethnocentrism often leads to judgment or bias against other cultures and their practices and beliefs.

#### (i) Characteristics:

- 1) It leads to a sense of cultural pride and identity.
- 2) It can foster unity within a group but also create prejudice against other cultures.
- 3) It may hinder cultural exchange and understanding.

#### (ii) Examples:

##### a) Language Superiority:

Believing that one's native language is more refined or logical than others.

English speakers, for instance, consider English superior to other languages.

##### b) Cultural Practices:

Judging traditional clothing of other culture as outdated or inappropriate while considering one's own as modern and superior.

19



2

## XENOCENTRISM:

Xenocentrism refers to:

"The preference of in the superiority of other cultures over one's own."

It often leads to idealization of foreign lifestyles, practices or products while devaluing native ones.

### (i) Characteristics:

- 1) Promotes admiration of external cultures
- 2) Can result in the neglect or rejection of one's cultural heritage.
- 3) May lead to the adoption of foreign norms at the expense of local tradition.

20

### (ii) Examples:

#### a) Consumer Preferences:

Prefering imported goods, like French perfumes or Italian manufactured handbags over domestic alternatives.

#### b) Cultural Practices:

Adopting foreign traditions or festivals such as celebrating Halloween or indigenous cultural events.

Aspect	Ethnocentrism	Xenocentrism
Focus	Preference of one's own culture	Preference of foreign culture
Impact	Pride, superiority, prejudice	admiration, inferiority
Examples	Believing other culture as inferior.	Believing foreign lifestyle is better
Effect	Create cultural insularity	Erode cultural identity